

- 8 -

CLAIMS :

1. A composition obtainable by a process in which tumor material is evaluated, comminuted and transferred into a purified cell suspension, which is then incubated with interferon-gamma and tocopherol acetate and frozen to form a tumor cell lysate,

and in which monocytes are isolated from buffy coats or whole blood and subsequently induced to differentiation into dendritic cells by incubation with cytokines and converted to the non-adherent stage,

whereupon a calculated amount of the above frozen tumor cell lysate is thawed, added as an antigen, cytokines are added, incubation is performed, and the mature dendritic cells produced are harvested.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein autologous tumor material has been used for the preparation.
3. The composition according to claim 1, wherein IL-4 and GM-CSF are added for differentiation into "immature" dendritic cells in the preparation.
4. A medicament containing a composition according to at least one of claims 1 to 3.
5. A method for preparing a medicament in which a tumor cell a suspension of tumor cells is prepared, the tumor cells are killed, and monocytes are isolated from blood, their differentiation into dendritic cells is induced,

and the thus obtained "immature" dendritic cells are incubated with the cell lysate of the killed tumor cells, the maturing of the dendritic cells is induced, and the "mature" dendritic cells are harvested.

6. The method according to claim 5, in which the monocytes are isolated from buffy coats, whole blood, leukaphereses, or separated stem cells.
7. The method according to claim 5 and/or 6, in which the differentiation of the monocytes into "immature" dendritic cells by cytokines, IL-4 and GM-CSF with or without interferon-gamma.
8. The method according to at least one of claims 5 to 7, in which the maturing from "immature" to "mature" dendritic cells is induced by prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> and TNF- $\alpha$  and/or IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-6 in addition to IL-4 and GM-CSF.
9. The method according to at least one of claims 5 to 8, in which the tumor cell suspension is prepared by isolating and optionally evaluating tumor material, which is then comminuted and transferred into a purified cell suspension.
10. The method according to at least one of claims 5 to 9, in which the tumor cell suspension is prepared by isolating and optionally evaluating autologous tumor material, which is then comminuted and transferred into a purified cell suspension.
11. The method according to at least one of claims 5 to 10, in which the expression of membrane-borne protein complexes is induced in the tumor cell suspension prior to said killing of the tumor cells.
12. The method according to claim 11, in which the expression of membrane-borne protein complexes is induced by interferon-gamma and tocopherol acetate.
13. The method according to claim 5, in which the tumor cells are killed by freezing.
14. The method according to claim 5, in which the "mature" dendritic cells are harvested when typical morphological characteristics are present (e.g., veil

- 10 -

formation) as evaluated by microscopic check and/or by characterization of surface antigens using fluorescent antibodies.

15. Use of the composition according to claim 1 for preparing a medicament for tumor therapy.
16. Use of the composition according to claim 1 for preparing a medicament for tumor vaccination.